

EXPERIEMENTS ON FARMERS PARTICIPATION IN RURAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE REFORM

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I. The experiment on China's rural primary health care reform under the participation of farmers' self governing organizations

- Louchuan Experience, method and results (Farmers' Primary Medical Care Cooperatives at the Old County Town of Louchuan)
- Since 2006, Yongji experience, method and results (Farmers' Association of Puzhou Township, Yongji)
- Since 2008, Shijian Experience, methods and results (New Village Comprehensive Development Association in Heshuiping Area, Shijian County)

II. Findings From the Experiments

- The community health care services administered by the government are admitted and accepted by the farmers. They are not only benefited by the system, but have also can have their voice heard through the participation of their self-governing organizations.
- It is necessary to reform the rural health service system but cannot solve the crisis of farmers' lack of confidence in the health services under the administration of the government.
- The farmers' health team has the ability to correct the out-of-date idea of emphasizing medical treatment rather than prevention. Their desire can be achieved only through continuously changing the medical and health facilities.
- Under the existing social structure and management system in rural China, the non-health social factor determines the success and failure of village health service system —where farmers only play the principal part as consumers but not the principal part in the choice and decision of non-medical consumption.
- The findings in the three areas indicate that the key issue to improve the public services in rural China lies in the reform of governance structure at the grass-root level – to have the government at the county level to perform the leading role, the Xiang government to play as principal body with the participation of the farmers' self-governing comprehensive cooperatives in governance. For this purpose, there is a need for the establishment of administration office as well as financial and taxation reform both at the county level and the Xiang level and the setting up of the comprehensive farmers' association.
- Under the current situation when it is hard to have a break through in the reform of the entire system so as to improve the social environment, reform in parts would be even more difficult . It shows that rural reform can only be achieved by promoting the entire system reform.